

Pastoral Council Minutes

January 10, 2022

Attended: Dotse Sogah, Fr. Joe, Sue Hyatt, Art Degaetano, Tom Dunn, Jonathan Lunine, Mary Crosley, Diane Bradac, Mary Kay LaLonde and Mary Hutchens

1. Prayer and Faith Sharing (Jonathan)

2. Approval of Minutes:

The Minutes from the December 13, 2021 meeting were approved. (Art/Sue).

3. Listening to and/or suggestions from our Parishioners:

While no parishioners were in attendance, Jonathan noted that we are regularly receiving suggestions from parishioners and able to respond to and implement many of them. The group felt that in person meetings in the future may be a better venue for parishioners to participate.

4. Follow-up on Actionable Items:

- A. "PC members are encouraged to write about their ministry experience so that it can be shared in the Bulletin on some regular basis."
Jonathan drafted a statement on his experience and has shared it with the Council. We agreed that it should be submitted and included in the Bulletin.
- B. We discussed the ongoing need to replace a member of the PC who has left as well as the need for a youth representative. We are concerned that we need to hear the voices of our youth more. A suggestion was made for Father Joe to approach a potential candidate. He will do this and also talk to Rich Rasmussen about a youth representative.
- C. "Diane will write-up a paragraph that outlines next steps for parish survey". See Below.

5. Status of Survey:

Diane has sent a statement to Father Joe regarding the next steps for the survey. She emphasized that for things to move forward, we need to solicit more parish volunteers who have expertise in survey development and analysis. Father Joe will put this request in the Bulletin. We agreed that Dotse should be the primary contact for responses to this request. We discussed a plan to do the survey after Easter.

6. Staffing and Volunteering Amid the Covid Surge:

Father Joe reported that we still struggle with adequate ministry coverage for the 11:30 Mass. Our current Mass attendance is about 50% in person and 50% livestreamed. Numbers indicate we are reaching a lot of people, including folks not in the geographic area. It was noted that many of those attending by livestream log off after the homily.

Father Joe plans to start the recruitment process for the Pastoral Associate in February. At this time, he expects this will be a full time position. The Faith Formation program will be reviewed and refined at the end of the year.

7. Synod and Educating the Parish:

Jonathan shared resources with us in a separate email. These materials describe more of the goals and process of the Synod as well as the questions and themes to be addressed.

Father Joe described the Synod as an opportunity for us to speak to the hierarchy and contribute to decisions about how the church operates. Our responses to the listed questions will be forwarded to the diocese.

Father Joe has asked the Adult Faith Group to take the lead in this process for St. Catherine's. They have scheduled a first meeting for January 30 to gather input from parishioners. There are additional meetings scheduled. They will rewrite the questions so they are more easily responded to and engage a facilitator. All of these plans will be published in the Bulletin.

We discussed the challenge of preparing our parishioners for this activity. We questioned whether they would be convinced it mattered. We suggested a few steps that might help: put all this info. on the website including all meeting dates and make an oral announcement at the end of Mass.

All PC members were encouraged to participate in these meetings and encourage others to attend. Father Joe asked that we specifically try to reach Catholics who are no longer active and parents of children now in their 20s and 30s who are not actively practicing. As we further consider this effort, Father Joe asked us to share any additional thoughts/suggestions.

8. Father Joe's Updates and Comments:

- a. The issues with the "livestream service" are resolved.
- b. Maintenance of the campus is OK. A landscaping plan is being implemented as a first effort to deal with basement flooding problems.
- c. St. Catherine statue will arrive on 4/29
- d. Finances are OK
- e. Faith Formation and Music Program are working well.
- f. 2021 Contribution sheets are coming out at the end of January.
- g. We are at 70% of our CMA total.
- h. Parish Center is slowly reopening.
- i. We are not doing Pastoral Care to Nursing Homes due to Covid restrictions.
- j. We discussed whether it was alright for ministers to stay masked when proclaiming. Father Joe encouraged all to do what they feel comfortable/safe doing. He will communicate this to all ministers.

9. Review of Actionable Items:

- a. PC Members should write up a statement of their ministry experience to share in the Bulletin.
- b. Father Joe will approach potential new PC members including youth representation.
- c. PC Members will participate in meetings related to the Synod as well as encourage others to attend.
- d. The request for survey expertise will be published in the Bulletin.

10. People to be Thanked in the Bulletin:

- a. Those who decorated and undecorated the church for Christmas.
- b. To Sherry and members of the choir for the Christmas program
- c. To all the Ministers
- d. To those who organized and contributed to the Giving Tree
- e. To those who have donated to the CMA
- f. To those who made and shared cookies for others during the holidays.

11. Future Prayer Leaders:

February: Mary Kay

March: Art

April: Dotse

12. Closing Prayer: Jonathan